



Look you faithful Lovers,
on my unhappy state,
See my tears distilling,
but poured out too late;
And buy no foolish fancy
at too dear a rate;
Alack for my love I shall dye.
My father is a Gentleman,
well known of high degree,
And tender of my welfare
evermore was he;
He fought for reputation,
but all the worse for me,
Alack, &c.
There was a proper Maiden
of labour sweet and fair,
To whom in deep affection
I closely did repair;
In heart I deeply loved her,
for thus began my care;
Alack, &c.
For Nature had adorn'd her
with qualified piety,
Prudent in her actions,
and in behaviour fine;
Upon a sweeter creature,
the sun did never shine;
Alack, &c.
Nothing wanting in her,
but this the grief of all,
Of birth she was but lowly,
of substance very small,
A simple hired Servant,
and subject to each call;



Yet she was my pleasure,
my joy and heart's delight,
More rich then any treasure,
more precious in my sight;
At length to one another
our promise we did plight;
Alack, &c.
And thus unto my father
the thing I did reveal,
Desiring of his labour,
nothing I did conceal,
But he my dear affection
regarded ne'er a deal;
Alack, &c.
Quoth he, Thou graceless fellow,
thou art my only heir;
And for thy own preferment
hast thou no better care?
To marry with a Begger
that is both poor and bare;
Alack, &c.
I charge thee on my blessing,
thou do her sight refrain,
And that into her company
you never come again;
That you should be so married,
I take it in disdain;
Alack, &c.
Is there so many Gentlemen
of worthless degree,
That have most honest Daughters
of beauty fair and free;
And can none but a Begger's Bait
content and pleasure see?

refuse and quite forsake,
from thee thy due Inheritance
I wholly mean to take;
Alack, &c.
These his bitter speeches
did so torment my mind,
Knowing well how greatly
he was to misch himself,
My heart was slain with sorrow,
no comfort I could find;
Alack, &c.
Then did I write a letter,
and sent it to my Dear,
Wherein my first affection
all changed did appear;
Which from her fair eyes forced
the parted water clear;
Alack, &c.
For grief unto the messenger
one word she could not speak,
Those doleful heavy tidings
her gentle heart did break;
Yet sought not by her speeches
on me her heart to break;
Alack, &c.
This deed within my conscience
tormented me full sore,
To think upon the promise
I made her long before;
And for the true performance
how I most deeply sorrow;
Alack, &c.
I could not be in quiet
till I to her did go;
Who for my sake remained
in sorrow, grief and woe;
And unto her in secret,
my full intent to show;
Alack, &c.
My sight rejoiced greatly
her sad perplexed heart,
From both her eyes on sudden
the trickling tears did start,
And in each others bosom
we breathed forth our smart;
Alack, &c.

When he not thou abashed,
she was my only Bride;
Yet still within her service
I caus'd her to abide;
Alack, &c.
But never had two Lovers
more sorrow, care and grief,
So means in our extremity
we found for our relief:
And now what further rapt
here followeth in brief;
Alack, &c.
Now you loyal Lovers,
attend unto the rest.
See by secret marriage
how sore I am oppress'd,
For why my soul's misfortune
herein shall be express'd;
Alack, &c.
My father came unto me
upon a certain day,
And with a merry countenance,
these words to me did say:
My Son, quoth he, come hither,
and mark what I shall say;
Alack, &c.
Seeing you are disposed
to lead a wedded life,
I have unto your credit
provided you a Wife;
Where thou shalt live delightful
without all care and strife;
Alack, &c.
Master Senock's Daughter,
most beautiful and wise, Con,
Three hundred pounds her portion;
may well thy mind suffice,
And by her friends and kindred,
thou shalt to credit rise;
Alack, &c.
This is, my Son, undoubted
a Match for thee most meet,
She is a proper Maiden
most delicate and sweet,
Go woo her then and wed her,
I shall rejoice to see it;
Alack, &c.

When he not thou abashed,
but speedily proceed;
Thou shalt be entertained,
and have no doubt to speed;
Alack, &c.
O pardon me, dear father,
with bashful looks I said,
To enter into Marriage,
I sorely am afraid,
A single life is lovely,
therein my mind is staid;
Alack, &c.
When he had heard my speeches,
his anger did arise,
He drove me from his presence,
my sight he did despise;
And straight to disinherit me,
all means he did devise;
Alack, &c.
When I myself perceived
in that ill case to stand,
Most lewdly I consented
unto his fond demand;
And married with the other,
and all to save my Land;
Alack, &c.
And at this hapless Marriage
great cost my friends did keep,
They spared not their poulter,
their oxen, nor their sheep;
Whilst joyfully they danced,
I did in corners weep;
Alack, &c.
My conscience was tormented,
which old my joys devour;
I for to hide my sorrow,
in thou shalt do always strive;
Quoth I, What shame will it be
to have two Wives alive;
Alack, &c.
O my sweet Margaret,
I did in sorrow say,
Thou know'st not in thy service,
of this my marriage-day,
Tho' here my body re-ech,
with thee my heart doth stay;
Alack, &c.

With chains and jewels trained,
and silken robes beaute,
Saying, Why dost my true Love
so sadly here abide?
Alack, &c.
Yea, twenty lovely kisses
she did on me bestow,
And forth abroad a walking,
this lovely Maid did go;
Yea, arm in arm most friendly,
with him that was her foe,
Alack, &c.
But when that I had thought her
where no body was near,
I embraced her most falsely,
with a most feigned cheer,
Unto the heart I stabbed
this Maiden fair and clear,
Alack, &c.
Myself in woful manner
I wounded with a Knife,
And laid myself down by her,
by this my married Wife;
And said that thieves to rob us,
had wrought this deadly strife;
Alack, &c.
Great wailing and great sorrow
was then upon each side,
In woful sort they buried
this fair and comely Bride;
And in dissimulation,
herein was quickly tried;
Alack, &c.
And for this cruel Murder,
to death that I am brought;
For this my aged father
did end his days in rought;
My Margaret at these tidings,
her own destruction wrought;
Alack, &c.
Loe here the doleful peril,
blind fancy brought me in,
And mark what care and sorrow
sore'd Marriage doth bring;
All men by me be warned,
and Lord forgive my sin;
Alack for my love I shall dye.